



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Solicitor General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 24, 2025

Honorable Scott S. Harris
Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Louisiana v. Phillip Callais, et al., No. 24-109 & Press Robinson, et al. v. Phillip Callais, et al., No. 24-110

Dear Mr. Harris:

These consolidated cases concern a constitutional racial-gerrymandering challenge to Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District (CD6), which the Louisiana legislature redrew following a district court ruling that Louisiana's previous map likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), 52 U.S.C. 10301. In the decision under review, the three-judge district court found that race predominated in the drawing of the new CD6's lines and further determined that the State's use of race did not satisfy strict scrutiny.

On December 23, 2024, the United States filed a brief as amicus curiae in support of neither party. The brief took no position on the district court's finding of racial predominance at the first step of the racial-gerrymandering inquiry. The brief primarily argued that the district court applied the wrong legal framework in holding that CD6 fails strict scrutiny. Specifically, the brief argued that the earlier VRA litigation provided the State with a strong basis in evidence to believe that it needed to draw another majority-minority district to achieve Section 2 compliance, and that the court below erred in requiring the State to prove that CD6 as drawn would have satisfied the preconditions for VRA liability if it had been offered as an illustrative district by a Section 2 plaintiff.

On January 16, 2025, the United States filed a motion for leave to participate in the oral argument as amicus curiae and for enlargement of the argument time. The Court has not yet acted upon that motion.

Following the change in Administration, the Department of Justice has reconsidered the government's position in these cases. The purpose of this letter is to notify the Court that the previously filed brief no longer represents the position of the United States. In addition, the United States is withdrawing its pending motion to participate in the oral argument.

I would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to the Members of the Court.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Harris
Acting Solicitor General

cc: See Attached Service List

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

24-0109
LOUISIANA
PHILLIP CALLAIS, ET AL.

JORGE BENJAMIN AGUINAGA
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1885 N. THIRD STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
2255063746
AGUINAGAJ@AG.LOUISIANA.GOV

POOJA CHAUDHURI
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER LAW
1500 K STREET, NW, SUITE 900
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-662-8600
PCHAUDHURI@LAWYERSCOMMITTEE.ORG

MICHAEL B. DE LEEUW
3WTC
175 GREENWICH STREET, 55TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007
212-908-1331
MDELEEUW@COZEN.COM

JOHN E. ECHOHAWK
NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND
250 ARAPAHOE AVE.
BOULDER, CO 80302
303-447-8760
JECHOWK@NARF.ORG

JOHN ARAK FREEDMAN
ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER, LLP
601 MASS. AVE., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202-942-5316
JOHN.FREEDMAN@ARNOLDPORTER.COM

BRIANNE JENNA GOROD
CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
CENTER
1200 18TH STREET, NW
STE. 501
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202-296-6889
BRIANNE@THEUSCONSTITUTION.ORG

EDWARD D. GREIM
GRAVES GARRETT, LLC
1100 MAIN ST.,
SUITE 2700
KANSAS CITY , MO 64105
816-256-3181
EDGREIM@GRAVESGARRETT.COM

EDWARD DEAN GREIM
GRAVES GARRETT LLC
1100 MAIN STREET,
SUITE 2700
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
816-256-3181
EDGREIM@GRAVESGARRETT.COM

ABHA KHANNA
ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP
1700 SEVENTH AVE.
SUITE 2100
SEATTLE, WA 98101
206-656-0177
AKHANNA@ELIAS.LAW

HILARY HARRIS KLEIN
SOUTHERN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
PO BOX 51280
DURHAM, NC 27717
610-574-5244
HILARYHKLEIN@SCSJ.ORG

EDMUND GERARD LACOUR JR.
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
501 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130
334-242-7300
EDMUND.LACOUR@ALABAMAAG.GOV

ANGELA M. LIU
DECHERT LLP
1095 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK , NY 10036
212-698-3678
ANGELA.LIU@DECHERT.COM

JONATHAN B. MILLER
PUBLIC RIGHTS PROJECT
PUBLIC RIGHTS PROJECT
490 43RD STREET
#115
OAKLAND, CA 94609
646-831-6113
JON@PUBLICRIGHTSPROJECT.ORG

STUART CHARLES NAIFEH
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION
FUND, INC.
40 RECTOR ST.
5TH FIR.
NEW YORK , NY 10006
212-9652200
SNAIFEH@NAACPLDF.ORG

BERNADETTE SAMSON REYES
UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT
3250 PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095
310-400-6019
BERNADETTE@UCLAVRP.ORG

LARUE L. ROBINSON
WILLKIE BARR & GALLAGHER LLP
300 NORTH LASALLE
50TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60654
312-728-9000
LROBINSON@WILLKIE.COM

PHILLIP JOHN STRACH
NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH
301 HILLSBOROUGH STREET
SUITE 1400
RALEIGH, NC 27603
919-329-3800
PHIL.STRACH@NELSONMULLINS.COM

CAROLINE SAGE VAN ZILE
ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
400 6TH STREET, NW, SUITE 8100
WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202-724-6609
CAROLINE.VANZILE@DC.GOV

24-0110

PRESS ROBINSON, ET AL.

PHILLIP CALLAIS, ET AL.

MICHAEL B. DE LEEUW
3WTC
175 GREENWICH STREET, 55TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007
212-908-1331
MDELEEUW@COZEN.COM

JOHN ERNEST ECHOHAWK
NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND
250 ARAPAHOE AVE.
BOULDER, CO 80302
303-447-8760
JECHOHWK@NARF.ORG

EDWARD DEAN GREIM
GRAVES GARRETT LLC
1100 MAIN STREET,
SUITE 2700
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105
816-256-3181
EDGREIM@GRAVESGARRETT.COM

EDMUND GERARD LACOUR, JR.
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
501 WASHINGTON AVE.
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130
334-242-7300
EDMUND.LACOUR@ALABAMAAG.GOV

STUART CHARLES NAIFEH
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION
FUND, INC.
40 RECTOR ST.
5TH FIR.
NEW YORK , NY 10006
212-9652200
SNAIFEH@NAACPLDF.ORG

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM